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Evening Papers .. 4th February, 1943.
Morning Papers .. 5th February, 1943.

RETAIL PRICES - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1942.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for December quarter 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1055, Toowoomba 1056, Rockhampton 1052, Townsville 1098, Bundaberg 1038, Charters Towers 1073, and Warwick 1029.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

City	December Quarter, 1942 - Percentage Compared With		
	Year Ended June, 1939	December Quarter 1941	September Quarter 1942
Brisbane	22.25	7.11	1.05
Toowoomba	24.09	8.64	1.25
Rockhampton	22.18	7.79	1.64
Townsville	20.39	7.12	1.57
Bundaberg	23.42	8.13	1.67
Charters Towers	24.77	8.17	1.51
Warwick	25.18	9.12	1.18

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase on Sept. Qr. 1942	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase on Sept. Qr. 1942	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase on Sept. Qr. 1942
Brisbane ..	14.14	- 0.81	63.45	2.57	16.61	3.36
Toowoomba ..	16.22	- 1.56	66.22	4.31	17.09	2.77
Rockhampton ..	10.61	0.41	64.85	3.57	18.51	2.50
Townsville ..	10.47	- 0.10	64.76	3.83	15.15	2.50
Bundaberg ..	13.18	- 0.68	64.60	3.52	16.04	3.05
Ch. Towers ..	10.14	- 0.57	62.24	4.47	15.41	2.52
Warwick ..	12.88	- 1.04	59.88	3.03	19.16	3.20

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for December quarter, 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 930, Toowoomba 910, Rockhampton 900, Townsville 978, Bundaberg 880, Charters Towers 890 and Warwick 857.

From September quarter 1942 to December quarter 1942 this index rose in Rockhampton (0.22 %) and Bundaberg (0.11 %) but showed the following percentage decreases in the other towns - Brisbane 0.53, Toowoomba 0.98, Townsville 0.10, Charters Towers 0.45, and Warwick 0.70.

Rents rose 2.15 % in Bundaberg but remained stationary in the other towns. The Food and Grocery index showed an increase in Rockhampton but decreased in the other towns. The changes are shown in the above table. The decrease in Brisbane was mainly due to a drop in the price of onions and potatoes but in Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Warwick and Townsville it was largely due to a reduction in the price of bread due to zoning or the abolition of deliveries.

Compared with December quarter 1941 the combined Food and Rent Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 3.91, Toowoomba 5.20, Rockhampton 3.93, Townsville 4.38, Bundaberg 4.51, Charters Towers 5.45 and Warwick 4.64.

The Food and Groceries Index rose by the following percentages - Brisbane 6.20, Toowoomba 7.99, Rockhampton 5.88, Townsville 6.89, Bundaberg 5.69, Charters Towers 7.66, and Warwick 5.83.

The Rent Index also showed increases in all towns, the percentage increases being Brisbane 0.23, Toowoomba 0.47, Rockhampton 0.13, Townsville 0.12, Bundaberg 1.68, Charters Towers 0.31, Warwick 2.16.

Compared with the index for the year 1938-39 the "B" series index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 9.15, Toowoomba 10.84, Rockhampton 7.53, Townsville 6.77, Bundaberg 10.14, Charters Towers 13.67 and Warwick 11.59.

Rents rose in all towns the percentage increases being Brisbane 1.41, Toowoomba 2.63, Rockhampton 2.00, Townsville 0.58, Bundaberg 3.59, Charters Towers 23.98 and Warwick 9.08.

Increases were recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in December Quarter, 1942 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
Brisbane ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Toowoomba ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Rockhampton ..	1. 0. 0	19. 4	19.11	1. 0. 4
Townsville ..	19.11	1. 0. 3	17. 9	1. 0. 7
Bundaberg ..	1. 0. 10	1. 1. 7	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 5
Charters Towers ..	19. 8	1. 0. 11	15. 5	1. 0. 5
Warwick ..	1. 0. 4	1. 1. 7	14.10	1. 0. 4
	19. 6	19. 7	16. 5	1. 0. 1

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
Queensland	1055	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	1057	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
N. S. W.	1138	4.14. 0	4.14. 0a	-	1135	4.14. 8	4.14. 8	-
Victoria	1136	5. 1. 5	4.18. 0a	3. 5	1130	5. 1. 8	4.18. 0	3. 8
South Aust.	1100	5. 1. 3	4.18. 0b	3. 3.	1095	5. 1. 2	4.17. 10	3. 4
West Aust.	1090	4.18. 0	4.14. 0a	4. 0	1097	4.18. 1	4.14. 0	4. 1
Tasmania	1113	4.17. 1	4.17. 9a	-0. 8	1094	4.18. 3	4.18. 3	-
	4.19. 2	4.14. 0b	5. 2		4.18. 0	4.13. 0	5. 0	

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth Basic Wage, applicable from first pay of period of February, 1943. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Decr. 1942	QUARTERS ENDING				
				Decr. 1941	March 1942	June 1942	Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942
Brisbane	..	917	863	1033	985	1011	1020	1044
Toowoomba	..	906	851	1033	972	1008	1026	1043
Rockhampton	..	903	861	1032	976	1017	1023	1035
Townsville	..	1023	912	1075	1025	1050	1069	1081
Bundaberg	..	(b)	841	1015	960	993	1007	1021
Weighted Average -								1038
Five Cities (a)		915	864	1035	985	1013	1023	1045
Charters Towers		925	860	1048	992	1018	1042	1057
Warwick	..	914	822	1007	943	981	1000	1017
								1029

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Decr. 1942	QUARTERS ENDING				
				Decr. 1941	March 1942	June 1942	Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942
Brisbane	..	901	852	927	895	925	918	935
Toowoomba	..	833	821	913	865	909	912	919
Rockhampton	..	858	837	901	866	907	900	898
Townsville	..	1047	916	974	937	963	977	979
Bundaberg	..	(b)	799	873	842	874	878	879
Weighted Average -								880
Five Cities (a)		892	851	926	892	923	919	932
Charters Towers		942	783	887	844	873	889	894
Warwick	..	841	768	856	819	849	855	863
								857

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF	
		Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942			Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942
		d.	d.			d.	d.
Bread	.. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	6.85 6.95
Flour	.. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon (Rashers) 1 lb.	14.81	17.05 18.05
Tea	.. 1 lb.	26.99	39.68	40.50	Beef - Sirloin		
Sugar	.. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	10.45 11.85
Jam (Plum)	1 1/2 lb.	8.02	9.79	10.09	Beef - Steak		
Raisins	.. 1 lb.	10.67	11.80	11.95	Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	14.55 16.35
Potatoes	.. 7 lb.	14.38	22.77	18.55	Beef - Rolled		
Onions	.. 1 lb.	2.93	7.30	2.00	Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	6.90 7.85
Soap	.. 1 lb.	6.20	6.88	6.97	Mutton - leg 1 lb.	7.75	7.80 7.85
Butter	.. 1 lb.	19.00	20.00	19.91	Mutton - chops		
Cheese	.. 1 lb.	13.28	14.73	14.95	Loin 1 lb.	7.78	8.05 8.00
Eggs	.. 1 doz.	19.69	20.64	23.05	Pork - Leg 1 lb.	11.40	14.89 16.00